

Civil Rights & Contemporary United States History Project

For the last two units of the year, you the student are going to decide how you learn the material. You will complete two different student-driven assignments, one research paper **OR** one student-designed class lesson. You will be allowed to choose which unit you will complete the research paper for and which unit you will create a lesson plan and teach a lesson to a portion of the class. Both options require you to answer a extended thinking question that you design and will be graded on based on our Extended

Thinking Response Rubric.

Examples of prompts:

- Identify and defend which method used by activists in the Civil Rights Movement was the most effective method.
- To what extent was the Civil Rights Movement a success?
- Who was the better Civil Rights Leader, Malcolm X or Martin Luther King?
- Explain why the Montgomery Bus Boycott was the most important event of the Civil Rights Era.
- The counter-culture of the 1960s, how hippies ruined America.
- Watergate made it so Americans will never trust their government again.
- The United States should have changed its energy policy after the OPEC Oil embargo in the 70's.
- Evaluate the United States decision to go to war in Iraq.
- The United States should/ should not pass a Defense of Marriage Bill

Project Descriptions:

My Lesson Plan Option (may be in pairs)

This option is a self-contained lesson that you will teach the class on a topic of your choosing* from either the Civil Rights Era or Contemporary United States History. You will create your Extended Thinking prompt and design a lesson that answers the question as stipulated on our Social Studies Rubric.

Additionally, you will include all of the following elements:

- A Warm up activity or short writing prompt
- "Teacher-led" segment of lesson outlining background information of subject
 - Student paired or group activity to reinforce learning/understanding
 - Whole group review of understanding
 - Exit slip/mini-assessment to assess student understanding
 - The Lesson should last 15-20 minutes total
 - Responsible for grading assessments/exit slips
 - Must submit an outline of lesson

My Research Paper Option (individual only)

This option is a 4-5 page research paper on a topic of your choosing* from either the Civil Rights Era of Contemporary United States History. You will create an Extended-Thinking prompt that you will then answer in writing according to our Social Studies Extended-Thinking Rubric. The essay should comply with all of the following:

- Social Studies Extended Thinking rubric
 - Proper MLA Format
 - Works Cited Page
- Proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

*Must be approved by teacher

Name_____

Research Notes

Date_____

Title of publication

Information:

Source (MLA Format)

Relevance (importance to question):

Title of publication

Information:

Source (MLA Format)

Relevance (importance to question):